



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 2

February, 2006

**Pastor's
Corner**

Saved By Grace Through Faith

*"For grace you have been saved by faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"*

Ephesians 2: 8



Often at a young age we are taught certain table manners. One of the rules of mealtime is that one should not talk about *politics or religion*. We know this because for many of us, these topics have encouraged divisions between us. I can't speak for the topic of politics, but when it comes to religion this can be tragic. It is so often in our discussions with each other that we learn and grow and our children learn the important things in our life. When we, as a rule, keep the discussion of faith from our dinner tables, I wonder if our children learn that *faith is not important enough to discuss*.

In worship we have been discussing how to re-claim that ability to discuss our faith with each other, thereby giving ourselves, and our children opportunities to grow spiritually.

A few guidelines are important: 1) *It is O.K. to disagree*. The Bible teaches us that the early church consistently disagreed with each other. We also know that out of those disagreements came learning, spiritual growth and the strengthening of the church; 2) *Everybody has gifts of faith* that others can learn from, and, *everybody has limitations* (nobody speaks for God). 3) *Love is the starting point for all our work*. When we follow Jesus' teaching, that we are to love each other as Christ loved us, then we need not be threatened by our differences or disagreements. They can become tools of grace in the hands of a loving God. So I encourage you to talk, with your children, with each other about issues of faith.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill



Angel of the Month Linda Nordli

by Bev Wilkes

This month we have a very special angel. **Linda Nordli** has been a member of *Our Redeemer's* for longer than 10 years along with her husband, **Scott** and their children, **Brian, Robert, Samantha** and **Mark**. All of them have been quietly involved with the activities of our church for a long time.

Linda has been on the Nominating Committee for quite some time and is still teaching Sunday School. She has been on a few other committees and can always be found working with the Boy Scouts. She also finds time to be a Girl Scout Leader and is active in Hoover School where her children go. Linda makes sure that her children take advantage of all that our church has to offer and we all benefit. Brian sure did a good job on his saxophone at Christmas time!

Linda has always helped out wherever help was needed! It is hoped that our newcomers will be glad to follow in her footsteps. February is a great month for this lady with the big heart and helping hands!

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

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[Rev. Bill Shaw](#)

Church Secretary:

[Donna Echtner](#)

Director of Youth Ministries:

[Marianne Rogenski](#)

Co-Editors:

Jim Cottrell

Jerry Mc Daniel

Something New Is Coming To Our Redeemer's

At the January 19 meeting the Ad Council approved proceeding with the Natural Church Development program designed to measure the health of our church family. Additional details about the program will be mailed to all members in February and presented in church in March.

To initiate the program, 30 active attendees will be recruited to complete a survey about our church. The volunteers will include 3 groups: those who have attended from 2-10 years; 10-19 years; and 20 or more years. The survey will be done in March and will require an hour or less to complete.

The steering committee that has developed the schedule includes **Pastor Bill, Sherrie Cottrell, Sharon Clermont** and **Ralph Will**. They would like to add four more members to implement the program and determine action required, based on the results of the survey.

"Natural Church Development"

by the NCD Steering Committee

Natural Church Development (NCD) is the result of a worldwide church growth research project. The research looked at growing and non-growing churches, and from this research has discovered "Eight Quality Characteristics" that can be the key to growing churches.

Churches from a total of 32 countries participated in this research project. Each participating church asked 30 of its members to complete a survey which produced 4.2 million responses. The NCD process grew out of the analysis of these responses.

Much additional information will be presented before the pastor and members of ORUMC will be asked to evaluate the following eight characteristics of *Our Redeemer's* church.

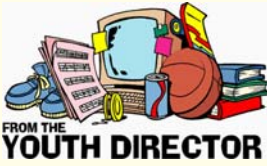
1. Empowering Leadership
2. Gift-oriented Ministry
3. Passionate Spirituality
4. Functional Structures
5. Inspiring Worship Service
6. Holistic Small Groups
7. Need-oriented Evangelism
8. Loving Relationships

The completed surveys will be evaluated by Conference Staff and they will then assign a NCD Coach to discuss the next steps with us. A "Minimum Factor" will be a result of this process.

You will learn much more about this "Minimum Factor" as we introduce more details about this program.

There will be a presentation on Natural Church Development on February 8 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Epworth UMC in Elgin. All who are interested are invited to attend.

If you have any questions please send a note to the office or email donna@orumc.org.



by *Marianne Rogenski*

Appalachia Service Project

It is the time of year again when we have to start thinking about the summer! This year we will be in Magoffin County, KY with 45 volunteers from ORUMC. We leave the church on June 10 and return June 17. If you are interested and have not yet notified Marianne, please do so now! Our first meeting will be on February 2 at 7pm. These meetings are very important for many reasons so please make every attempt to be there.

Louisiana United Methodist Storm Recovery Center

The LA Storm Recovery Center is in place as a response of the Louisiana Annual conference to the Hurricanes in 2005. The youth council of *Our Redeemer's* would like to begin a ministry with them this year. We are hoping to take a small group (10 at the most) this first year and maybe build on that in the future. You must be 16 years of age to go and we encourage all older Sr. High students and also college students to consider this. We are not yet aware of what the cost per person will be but will get that info out as soon as possible. Again, the goal this year is a small group. We would leave the church on July 15 and return July 22 or 23. See Marianne for more information, or if you are interested.

Confirmation students:

Please remember that the date for Beth Tikvah Synagogue has changed from this month to March 17. You should have received a letter about this and some other activities—if you did not receive it please see Marianne as soon as possible.

February Schedule:

- 5 Confirmation 4-5:30 p.m.
- 19 Confirmation 4-5:30 p.m.
- 24-25 30 Hour Famine
- 26 Famine Sunday
- 26 Soup Kitchen 1:30 p.m.

Sr. High students:

February Schedule:

- 5 MYF 6:30-8pm
- 12 MYF 6:30-8pm
- 19 MYF 6:30-8pm
- 24-25 30 Hour Famine
- 26 Famine Sunday

Souper Bowl Sunday:

We will once again participate in the Souper Bowl Sunday program here at *Our Redeemer's* UMC. On February 5, 2006 we ask that each member of the congregation bring a can of food with a dollar wrapped around it and leave it in the barrels in the narthex. All of the food collected will replen-

ish our pantry here at church and the money will be used for grocery store certificates to help those that seek us out for help. Please consider participating in this wonderful ministry.

30 Hour Famine:

This year's famine is February 24-25 with Famine Sunday the 26th. Please consider participating in this amazing event. It is for all Jr. and Sr. High students. The fast starts at 3pm on Friday and students come to the church at 6pm. During the fast students are allowed to have water or 100% fruit juice. If you have a child that would like to participate but is unable to fast, please talk to Marianne and we can work something out. The fast ends at 9pm on Saturday with a huge potluck in Wesley Hall—all parents, church members, and friends are encouraged to come and celebrate with the participants. During the fast we play games, do Bible studies, participate in a service project, go on one outing, and just have tons of fun and fellowship together.

This is an event that is great fun to help with! If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Marianne know.

30 Hour Famine packets are available now so please see Marianne if you are interested!

Thinking About Summertime

Summer? Already? Our Education Committee is already looking at our next Vacation Bible School opportunities and we want your input! We would like to invite you to come to our next education meeting on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. and participate in our brainstorming session.

Coming to this meeting does not obligate you to have a major role in VBS. Anyone who would like to participate but is unable to attend this meeting, please contact **Amy Johnson** (Education Co-Chair) at 630-372-4722.



February Birthdays

- 02/03 **Karen Greenwalt**
- 02/11 **Ellen Swartz**
- 02/12 **Annika Vallejo**
- 02/12 **Ian Vallejo**
- 02/13 **Adante Mendez**
- 02/17 **Zoe Fettel**
- 02/20 **Mike Hernandez**
- 02/21 **Cailtin Wilkes**
- 02/24 **Justin Edwards**
- 02/29 **Kelsey Lukowicz**

Micah Ministries

(Continuing the Fight against Hunger)

by Bruce Bedingfield

Have you noticed that *Our Redeemer's* has a tradition of combating hunger? Our long history of "caring ministries" includes participation in the annual CROP Walk, serving at the Rogers Park Soup Kitchen, supporting the Society of St. Andrews and stocking the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry. Our church's youth will soon be participating in the "Thirty Hour Famine". And our congregation's missionary, Richard Vales, sold all that he had to minister to the hungry in the Philippines.

Micah Ministries, our new social justice ministry group, is continuing this tradition of battling hunger. The emphasis of Micah Ministries will be centered more on examining and combating the roots of hunger. Upcoming meetings will explore existing hunger ministries, such as United Power for Action and Justice, Church World Service, and Bread for the World. In addition, Micah Ministries will be sponsoring a Lenten study series based on the book *Ending Hunger Now* by Bob Dole and George McGovern. The Lenten series will be held on Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30 p.m. on March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4. Upcoming Micah Ministry meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on February 7, 28, April 18 and May 16.

All church members are invited and encouraged to join in our Micah Ministries and to participate in our Lenten study. For we know that Christ Himself wants sometime to say, "I was hungry and you gave me food." (Matt. 25:35)

Thirteenth Annual Meals For Millions Lenten Program

Meals for Millions is a mission project for the United Methodist Men, sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew. UMM have provided literally millions of meals of potatoes and other food to the hungry through fund raising activities.

The funds are used to salvage and transport food (especially potatoes), that are perfectly good to eat but which are not suitable for use by processing plants due to size or shape.

All members and friends of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to join the Society of St. Andrew in a program of spiritual reflection and action to fight hunger during Lent. During last year's Lenten season *Our Redeemer's* raised \$1440. Since 1994 *Our Redeemer's* has raised over \$19,000.

This year's Lenten devotion entitled "Crossroads" can help you grow spiritually and provide an opportunity to feed the hungry. Money saved from "giving up something" during Lent will go to the Society of St. Andrew to provide food for the hungry.

The Lenten devotion program will begin Ash Wednesday, March 1 and will conclude with a Good Friday Fast on April 14.

Please sign up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 19.

Empowered for Ministry

One of the most important tasks of the church is to empower people for ministry. Last month the Nominations Committee sponsored 2 workshops on identifying our spiritual gifts. On February 27 and 28 the church is sponsoring a 2-day workshop that will help each of us identify our individual strengths. The results from the survey have the potential to help each individual in their job, in their family, and especially, in their *Christian ministry*.

For the class you will need to purchase the book *Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Buckingham and Clifton. Before the class each person should read the book and take the online survey. For those that may not have access to the Internet we will offer times when you can take the survey at church (please contact **Pastor Bill**). If you are interested in the class please speak to

Pastor Bill



Crisis Center Items

As the chill of winter is still itself upon us, the items for February will be slippers for woman and children (new ones only please). The floors at the center are not carpeted so it can be cold on the feet especially in the mornings. Please leave these items in the basket in the church office.

Video System Installed

A new video system was installed in January. The system includes two remote controlled screens, two projectors and a DVD player. An upgraded computer and presentation software will be added later.

Thanks to the **Oster** and **Machonis** families for memorial donations to fund the system.

Volunteers Needed:

The ORUMC Worship Technology Task Force (WTTF) is looking for computer literate volunteers to help run computer and projection equipment as needed on a weekly basis during Sunday services. Although a basic understanding of computers would be helpful, training will be provided. A sign up sheet will be located in the narthex near the usher sign up sheet. Please call **Steve Miller** at 630-837-5205 if you have any questions. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents. Thank you.

~The Technical Team

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed, especially for the 10:30 service. If you can help, call **Jill Wood-Naatz**, 847-884-7709, and volunteer for one or more dates.

Ad Council Information

The Ad Council consists of all committee chairpersons, the pastor, the youth coordinator, the co-chairmen, the secretary and interested parties. You are always welcome to attend. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7:15 p.m. in the Wesley Room.

If you are unable to come, you can read or download the minutes from the church's web-site – www.orumc.org.

Please feel free to join us!

Sherrie Cottrell

Ad Council Co-Chair



Mom's Night Out
February 2
7:00 p.m.

Join with other moms February 2, at 7:00 p.m. at PF Chang's. It's a night of food and fellowship, where someone else does all the cooking and cleaning! Mom's Night Out is for all moms, but especially for those with school aged or younger children.

To find out more or to make a reservation please call **Annette Brown** at 847-882-8629 or 847-341-8445 or email her at annetteb421@sbcglobal.net

Reservations are not needed but it is always helpful to know how many people are coming when getting a table. If you can't make it until later please feel free to join us for dessert!

Evening UMW

February 15, 7:00 p.m.

It's been a long time since the United Methodist Women have had Circle Meetings. That is about to change!

On Wednesday, February 15, an evening Circle will begin meeting at Shirley Odegaard's, 2873 Meadow Lane, Schaumburg.

We will have a devotion, discussion about something relevant, get to know each other, and have light refreshments. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. and break up by 9:00 p.m.

We will share responsibility of devotions, discussion and treats.

If interested, please call **Shirley Odegaard**, 847-798-1228 for directions. All women of the church are welcome.

United Methodist Women

February 18, 9:00 a.m.

All women of the church are invited to our Saturday, February 18 Breakfast Meeting. It will be held in the Wesley Room at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast provided. Our program theme in 2006 is "Year of the World" and the February program is entitled *GERMANY*, presented by **Von Evitts**. Please join us for **FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP**.

Beginning in 2006 the UMW will offer Evening Circle Meetings every 3rd Wednesday of the month. See article in this issue featuring details on this additional meeting opportunity.

Habitat for Humanity

February 18, 7:00 a.m.

All are invited to join in the Habitat project on February 18. We will leave the church parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and caravan to Waukegan to work on the Carter Woods Habitat project. We will work all-day and return to the church by about 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided (the PB & J sandwiches were great).

Call **Rob Mottar**, 630-682-5890, or **Mert Rutledge**, 630-289-4334 if you would like to attend.

Church Ladies Nite Out

February 22, 7:00 p.m.

The Church Ladies will be going out Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Come to the Bavarian House on Roselle Road near Wise Rd. Please join us and bring a friend! If you are in need of a ride or have any questions, please call **Bev Wilkes** at 630-837-7889. Come join us in good fellowship, good fun and good food!

Free Directory Assistance

Try dialing 1-800-FREE411 for directory assistance. You may talk to a machine or even a real live person. No charge!

Finance Report

The following is the year end report for 2005. Final congregational giving is \$299,997 or 9% below expected in budget. The Christmas offering was \$3,100. The Sprint rent was \$25,338. Including the other income, the total income was \$362,000 or 5% below budget.

The total expenses were \$351,000 or 7% below budget. We ended the year in the black, thanks to the hard work of committees to keep expenses under budget. Special thanks to the Trustees who were significantly below budget.

Total budget for 2006 will be \$369,000 compared to the 2005 budget of \$379,000. The 2006 budget is lower because Staff Parish has taken the salary for an Associate/Education Pastor out of budget.

New co-chairmen for Finance are **Fred Utne** and **John Machonis**.

Ed. Note: Thanks to **Carolyn Meneely** for her dedicated service as chair of the Finance Committee.

YTD Actual vs. Budget Through December 2005

	Actual	Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Congregation Gifts & Tithes	299,997	329,301	(29,304)	-9%
Sprint Rent	25,338	25,338	-	0%
Other Income	37,020	25,200	11,820	47%
Total Income	362,355	379,839	(17,484)	-5%
Total Expenses	351,214	378,791	(27,577)	-7%
Net Income (Loss)	11,141	1,048	10,093	

ChildServ Thanks ORUMC

The *Our Redeemer's* congregation has received the following letter from ChildServ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the agency staff, and the children and their families, thank you for being such a blessing to us this Christmas. With your congregation's help, we provided gifts to 1,146 children. Your effort, care and attention made this extraordinary project come to a successful conclusion as our children opened your gifts. Many thanks are due to all the people who contributed their time, talent and skills so gifts could be purchased, gathered, and given.

Participation in opportunities such as this gift-giving program can be a blessing to the giver as well as the child. As we participated in the Advent and Christmas season we reflected upon the great gift that God gives us in His Son. We thank you for the generous response to God's love that you displayed by giving to children in need.

With blessings,

Jennifer Collins

Volunteer Services Coordinator

Religious Outreach Award

In addition, ChildServ recognized the *Our Redeemer's* congregation with the Religious Outreach Award at their annual meeting in November. This is given to a congregation who has supported ChildServ with

monetary gifts, donations-in-kind (such as Gifts from the Heart and the Easter baskets), and service to the organization. This award is not given every year. In looking at past recipients, those congregations have been much larger than *Our Redeemer's*. However, *Our Redeemer's* for the past several years have provided nearly 13% of the gifts for their Christmas gift giving program through our program, Gifts from the Heart.

This year 92 families provided 145 children with presents. The support the *Our Redeemer's* congregation has provided ChildServ was recognized, not only by the award which can be seen in the narthex, but by the many warm words of appreciation by the ChildServ President/CEO and board members present at the annual meeting.

Gail Bedingfield and **Carol and Glen Hollingsworth** were honored to be able to accept the award on behalf of the members of *Our Redeemer's UMC* and were impressed to hear of all the programs provided by ChildServ to the families of Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties.

It takes many dedicated staff and volunteers to carry out these programs. If you would like more information on the programs of ChildServ, or would like to know how you could volunteer, you can talk with **Gail Bedingfield** or **Carol Hollingsworth**, or visit the ChildServ website at www.ChildServ.org.

Christmas and Children:

For Christmas I have taken the \$500.00 check sent to me by ORUMC (thank you) and have bought things for the children. We are making 500 bags. In each bag will be 2 toys and a bubble bottle to blow bubbles. There will be cake, cookies and chips, and a soft drink. There is gum, sucker, and chocolate and graham crackers. There is a laminated card with a picture of an angel on one side and a prayer on the other side. There is also a small purse to carry the money they beg for. There are 8 different laminated cards and 1 card goes in each bag. The bags are tied with colorful yarn and a card is attached with a picture on Santa on it and the words "For You Merry Christmas" and on the other side is a picture of Santa and his wife putting up a Christmas tree.

We will pass this out on Christmas day to 5 locations where the most needy children are. 100 bags will go to each location. It is my heart full thanks for ORUMC members for their support. This may be the first Christmas these children have ever received anything.

I pray that you all are happy with my choice of what I have done with the money you have sent me. I pray for all of you and all your family members and friends. And I also pray that you will not forget these hungry families in the coming year.

Thanks again and again and again.

God bless you all in Christ

Rev. Richard Vales

(Missing you all very, very much)



Personal Notes

Births

Kara Elizabeth Brinkley was born January 5 to **Kelly** and **Bryane Brinkley**. Proud grandparents are **Herb** and **Mary Knoppel**.



The congregation extends deepest sympathy to:

Mike Almazan and family on the death of his mother in the Philippines.

The family of **Jean Patterson** who passed away suddenly Wednesday, January 18.

Dorothy Gorham and family on the death of her sister, **Ruth Rouse** from Jackson, TN.

Donna Wells

Donna Wells moved to Kankakee in January. Donna started the Care & Share program as an outgrowth of the Richard Vales' Contagious Christian class. Donna wished to thank all at **Our Redeemer's** for their friendship and support. Her new address is:

1754 Oak Tree Lane
Kankakee, IL 60901

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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